RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 25th April, 1986/5th Vaisakha, 1908 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

Telugu Ganga Project

*61. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:†
SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken expeditious action for the finalisation of the Telugu-Ganga project; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The Central Government has tried to resolve the inter-State aspects of the project by holding discussions at official and Ministerial levels. During the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka the matter was also discussed. An official level meeting of the three States has been convened by the Centre at New Delhi on 28-4-1986.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is true that there will be a meeting of the 3 States regarding the distribution of water, but before that there is a decision by way of an Award also. According to that Award Maharashtra has to get 560 TMC, Karnataka has to get 700 TMC and Andhra Pradesh has to get 800 TMC of water. I would like to know whether in that meeting the Award will be open for discussion or not. The other point is, in view of severe droughts in 1974-75 and again in 1983 the then Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi called the meeting of the three Chief Ministers and a mediation was done by Madam Gandhi that 5 TMC of water from each State should be given to Madras city. I would like to know whether the terms of the Accord and the mediation decision arrived at by Madam Gandhi are going to be changed. What are the guidelines in this regard?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: As a matter of fact, the differences are going to be resolved on the basis of the Award itself and the commitment to the Madras City Drinking Water Supply Scheme.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: What about the decision which has already been given by way of an Award? Secondly, in addition to that in 1983 there was an agreement signed by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri M. G. Ramachandran. This agreement signed on 18th April, 1983, at Hyderabad related to the supply of water to the Madras city. In this agreement along with meeting the requirements of water supply to the Madras city, there is a provision of irrigating some 5.8 lakh hectares of land. (*Interruptions*). From this we are doubtful whether the interest of Maharashtra and Karnataka will be affected largely. I would like to know whether the 15 TMC of water which has been allotted to the Madras city for drinking purposes would be used only for the drinking purposes or whether it will be used for the new project also which has been signed by the Andhra Chief Minister and the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Shri M. G. Ramachandran, and additional water is being obtained by the Andhra Pradesh Government. That is very important. About 75 per cent...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Yes, Mr. Minister, reply to what he has asked. (*Interruptions*). Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Not a drop out of the 15 TMC allotted or committed to Madras city will be used for any other purpose.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Sir, the Minister has not been helpful in understanding the real controversy. Un-

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav.

fortunately, the controversy raised by Maharashtra or Karnataka is hitting Madras city. It is long before, when you were the Minister and Shri Kamraj was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and Shri Sanjiva Reddy was the Chief Minister in Andhra Pradesh, there was an understanding that 15 TMC of water will be given to Tamil Nadu for meeting the drinking water requirements of Madras city. Madras city is a cosmopolitan city. There are more than 7 lakh Telugu speaking people, more than 3 lakh of Malayalees, more than 5 lakh of Kannada speaking people. (*Interruptions*). Why, Maharashtrians and Gujaratis are also residing? Madras city is starved of drinking water. Due to this controversy I do not know whether Shri Rama Rao is trying to take more water through the channel, I do not want to take sides in that controversy, but Rayalaseema was part of the composite State of Madras. We all know how difficult it is to get water in that region. Rayalaseema also deserves.

MR CHAIRMAN: Now your question.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Madras should not be put to difficulty. What steps the Government of India is going to take to ensure that 15 TMC of water reaches Madras for meeting its drinking water needs? Tamilnadu has even paid its own share of expenditure.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, if I can react to the suggestion made by the hon. Member, I should say that we are all proud that Madras is a cosmopolitan city. The supply of water to Madras city was at the instance of the then Prime Minister, the great leader of this country, Indiraji. This was in 1976. And it is ten years now, no water is available for Madras city. This is also the concern of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He himself went and had talks with the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Governments because of his keen interest to see that water is available to those who are in great need of it, whether for drinking purpose or for irrigation.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Krishna water should not become a bone of contention between the three States—Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra. But unfortunately it has become so. And I can very well understand the anxiety of my friend, Shri Kalyanasundaram. His interest in drinking water is very urgent. He also said that as a result of change in the Telugu-Ganga project, the drinking water scheme may be postponed to a future date. May I know whether the official meeting that the Minister has called here will decide upon the surplus water available, or is it going to discuss only the Telugu-Ganga project?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: To be short and not taking much of the time of the House, the discussion is going to be on the points raised by Karnataka and Maharashtra on the scheme of Telugu-Ganga.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: I would like to know whether it is a fact that there was an agreement between the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra, to draw 15 TMC of water which prohibits irrigation en route. If there is such an agreement, is not Andhra a party to it? If Andhra is not a party to it, how can they conceive of Telugu-Ganga project?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any answer?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: What answer, Sir.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, my point is not answered—whether there was an agreement which prohibits irrigation en route.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, Telugu-Ganga project was proposed and agreed between the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. As a matter of fact this scheme was earlier proposed and agreed to by the three States of A. P., Karnataka and Maharashtra when its foundation was laid. Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister, was present. The Central Government and the State Governments

of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were represented. All Chief Minister of these States were present. Everybody knew the whole scheme of Telugu Ganga. In pursuance of this understanding, the Telugu-Ganga project was started. And as a matter of fact Rs. 30 crores were given by Tamil Nadu at 1st instalment towards this project to Andhra Pradesh in the presence of Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, I do not understand now why this controversy has been raised. As a matter of fact, this project is not going to snatch the rights of Karnataka or Maharashtra or any other State. It is purely for the purpose of meeting the drinking water needs of Madras city. As it is to pass through Rayalaseema, which is a drought-prone area, so the surplus water, as per Bachawat Committee report, is being used to minimise the difficulties of the people of Rayalaseema.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are arguing a case.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: So, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Central Government was not having in mind the interest of the people of those areas of Rayalaseema who are suffering because of continuous drought and other calamities.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Like Rayalaseema.

SHRI K. C. SHANKARANAND: Sir, it is because of this interest that all efforts are made by the Government of India, especially the Prime Minister of India who himself had hours of meeting with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel that this is a question relating to the implementation of the project already agreed upon. There was a definite understanding — an agreement — between the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the required demand made by the Andhra Pradesh Government towards the cost has already been paid by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the project was also inaugurated by the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. After having done all that it is the duty of the concerned State Government and also the Central Government to see that the commitment already made is respected and the project implemented. I would like to know what is the role of the Central Government in that direction.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The role of the Central Government is to bring these three Chief Ministers to agree to the proposals and see that Madras gets water. Sir, to put an end to this discussion I want a cordial atmosphere to be created both inside and outside the House so that we resolve all the differences. That is the purpose. According to the suggestion of the Prime Minister, an immediate meeting has been called on the 28th of this very month and we have invited the Tamil Nadu officials also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh—to show that he is a different person!

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: He is from Maharashtra, Sir.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Sir, there are vast areas of Maharashtra State which are chronically drought prone. About 75 per cent of the Krishna Basin area in Maharashtra is also drought prone. Therefore, the question of irrigation and water facilities is of great importance. It is because of this reason that we have already made schemes for allocation of the surplus water which is going to be due to us under the Award of the Tribunal for which up to 2000 A.D. we have already made those schemes. Our State has made schemes for full capacity utilization of that water. One of the problems we are facing is, two major projects—the Varana project which we have given to the Central Government on the 6th of November, 1976 and the Doodh-Ganga project given on the 20th of August 1979—are pending clearance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But we are discussing the Telugu-Ganga.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Yes, it is part of this, Sir. These two projects, which are very old projects, plus six medium projects all dealing with the Krishna Basin area with regard to surplus water be given to us, are pending clearance by the Central Government. I would like to know from the honourable Minister as to when clearance is going to be given to the State of Maharashtra for these two major projects and six medium projects.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, we were talking about Telugu-Ganga but he is talking about... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member's point is that these rivers are *in the same basin* (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: If it is inconvenient now, he can give it later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am coming to your help.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I am not going to assure that which I am not able to do. Sir, the boundaries of the drought-prone areas are no respecters of the political boundaries of the States in this country. There are drought-prone areas on the side of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra... (*Interruptions*)... I do not think there is a drought-prone area in this House. We are interested in clearing the project including the projects referred to by the honourable Member—the two major projects of Maharashtra—but they have not been held up for anything except techno-economic viability reasons which are the basic considerations for clearance of any project.

*62. [*The questioner* (*Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra*) *was absent. For answer* vide *Cols.* 30-31 Infra]

"हुडको" द्वारा भवनों का निर्माण

*63. **श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव** : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) "हुडको" द्वारा पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान कहां-कहां पर कितने भवन बनाये गए हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि "हुडको" द्वारा बनाये गए भवनों के घटिया निर्माण के सम्बन्ध में कोई जांच की गयी थी ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसका क्या परिणाम निकला ?

शहरी विकास मंत्री (श्री अब्दुल गफूर) : (क) हुडको मूल रूप से धन की व्यवस्था करने वाला संस्थान है तथा यह निर्माण कार्य नहीं करता है । तथापि, इस अवधि के दौरान, हुडको द्वारा एम.बी. रोड सेक्टर सात, नई दिल्ली में 875 क्वार्टरों का निर्माण कर रहा था ।

(ख) मुख्य तकनीकी परीक्षक संगठन के अधिकारियों ने निर्माण कार्यों की जांच की थी ।

(ग) मुख्य तकनीकी परीक्षक (सी.टी.ई.) ने एक रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की है जिस पर हुडको में आवश्यक कार्यवाही के लिए जांच की जा रही है ।

श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव : सभापति महोदय, उत्तर में मंत्री महोदय ने यह कहा कि तथापि इस अवधि के दौरान मैं उस अवधि को जानना चाहता हूं कि वह अवधि क्या है यानी कब से कब तक के बीच ? दूसरी जांच कब हुई और जांच करने वालों ने अपना प्रतिवेदन कब समाप्त किया और हुडको द्वारा इस प्रतिवेदन पर अब तक क्या कार्रवाई की गई है और यदि नहीं तो कब तक कार्रवाई की जायेगी ?

श्री अब्दुल गफूर : जैसा मैंने पहले कहा है यह हुडको कंस्ट्रक्शन वर्क नहीं करता है और फाइनेंस और टेक्नीकल आफिसर्स के